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ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

incorporating the Report of the Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1972

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ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council:
Councillor J. TABERNER

Vice-Chairman of the Council:
Councillor Wm. MAUNDERS

Members of the Council:

Councillor T. Gray
Councillor T. Green
Councillor J. Hatton
Councillor J. Moore
Councillor H. Lowe, J.P.
Councillor A. Singer, J.P.
Councillor Mrs. E. Matthews, J.P.

The Health Committee comprises all Members of the Council

Chairman of the Health Committee:
Councillor J. MOORE

Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee:
Councillor J. HATTON

Clerk of the Council and Chief Financial Officer:
PETER RYDER

Medical Officer of Health:
P. LEE, B.SC., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:
T. SUTTON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ASPULL.

Telephone: Wigan 45843.

To the Chairman and Members of the Aspull Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Matthews and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1972.

As in previous years it has been compiled in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health.

I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude for the assistance and co-operation received from the Officers of the Council and particularly to Mr. Sutton, Public Health Inspector, for his unfailing support.

I also respectfully wish to offer to Members of the Council my appreciations for the courtesy and encouragement given to me at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Matthews and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

P. LEE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area: 1,906 acres.
Population (Census 1971): 7,522.
Estimated mid-1972 (Registrar General): 7,480.
Total Number of Inhabited Dwellings at end of 1972 according to Rate Books: 2,646.
Rateable Value: £205.156.
Sum represented by Penny Rate: £1,931.

Aspull Urban District is situated some three miles north-east of Wigan and seven miles west of Bolton. The north-western portion of the area reaches to the greatest height above sea level (525 ft.) and from this point an uninterrupted view of the countryside for miles around may be obtained.

The present Urban District Council consisting of nine members governs the district, which is divided into three Wards. The Council, together with the Councils of the neighbouring Urban Districts of Hindley and Westhoughton, administer Borsdane Wood, through which runs the brook forming one of the natural boundaries of the Urban District.

The main industries are baking, tile manufacturing and agriculture. Several other smaller factories operate within the area.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births		*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Live Births:	Legitimate	68	50	118
	Illegitimate	2	3	5
Still Births:	Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
	Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL

Live birth rates per 1,000 estimated population:

Crude Rate	16.4	(14.8)
Adjusted rate	16.1	(14.8)
Area comparability factor	0.98	(1.00)
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	NIL	(12)

Deaths

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population:

Total (all forms):		
Crude rate	8.8	(12.1)
Adjusted rate	12.1	(12.1)
Area comparability factor	1.37	(1.00)
Respiratory tuberculosis	NIL	(0.020)
Malignant neoplasms	1.07	(2.43)

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births 0.15

Death of Infants		*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Infant mortality	Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
(deaths under 1 year of age)	Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Neonatal mortality	Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
(deaths under 4 weeks of age)	Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Early neonatal mortality	Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
(deaths under 1 week of age)	Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	NIL	(17)
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	NIL	(12)
Early neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	NIL	(10)
Perinatal mortality (still births and deaths under 1 week of age) rate per 1,000 total births	NIL	(22)

(The figure shown in parenthesis represent the respective rates for England and Wales).

CANCER

Facilities for radium treatment are available to Aspull residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at Wigan Infirmary, which for this purpose is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

Eight deaths (5 males and 3 females) were certified as due to cancer during the year.

TABLE SHOWING CAUSES OF DEATH AT VARIOUS AGES

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS 1–4	5–14	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65–74	75 and over
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B19(8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B19(9) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B27 Hypertensive Disease	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	16	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	5	5	5
	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System... ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B32 Pneumonia	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B33(2) Asthma	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
B35 Appendicitis	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE48 All Other Accidents	M	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
BE50 All Other External Causes	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	38	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	10	10	14
	F	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	16	9

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Department of Bacteriology, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan Chemical analyses are undertaken by the County Analyst, County Hall, Preston. These arrangements are entirely satisfactory.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS

During the year non-infections, infections, accident and maternity cases were dealt with adequately by the Ambulance Service operated by the Lancashire County Council. The ambulances are stationed at Hindley and Standish.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken by the Authority during the year, under Section 47 of this Act.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

A total of 18 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year. This figure comprises 17 cases of measles, and 1 case of food poisoning.

Tuberculosis—The dispensary services under the control of the Regional Hospital Board and Aspull cases attend the Chest Clinic, Millgate, Wigan.

The following table shows the number of cases of these diseases occuring within various age groups.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1972

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED										
	TOTAL CASES AT ALL AGES	AGE PERIODS — YEARS									
		0–	1–	2–	3–	4–	5–	10–	15–	25 and over	age un-known
Measles (excluding rubella)	17	3	1	2	2	2	7	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Food Poisoning	1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	NIL

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following table shows the number of children resident in Aspull who were immunised and vaccinated during the year.

CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE PROTECTED AGAINST—	PRIMARY	RE-INFORCEMENT
Diphtheria	106	157
Whooping Cough	103	4
Tetanus	106	156
Poliomyelitis	106	163
Measles	76	NIL
Rubella	34	NIL

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

T. SUTTON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

With the advent of Local Government Reorganisation, Working Parties have been set up in the various disciplines to make recommendations as to the future requirements of the new Metropolitan District Council.

The Working Parties in which I have been concerned are as follows:—

1. Environmental Health
2. Slum Clearance and Housing
3. Refuse Collection
4. Housing Management
5. Manchester Metropolitan Co-ordinating Committee

Due to my attendance at meetings in respect of the above and the detailed preparation of information for the meetings, the routine work of the Department has suffered as is evident in the table of visits etc. shown below.

Nevertheless the Department has functioned satisfactorily and effort has been concentrated in the areas where needed.

DETAILS OF VISITS

Refuse Disposal	233	Council Housing Visits	196
Miscellaneous Visits	104	Noise	3
Discretionary Grants	34	Public Health Act Insp.	101
Drainage	13	Housing Act Inspections	289
Factories	9	Overcrowding	2
Pet Shops	3	Grocers	15
Petrol Installations	9	Butchers	5
Rodent Control	24	Bakers	8
Insect Control	14	Fried Fish Shops	8
Schools	19	Sweet Shops	1
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	8	Ice Cream Premises	1
Stables and Piggeries	2	Cafes and Snacks Bar	1
Scrap Metal Dealers	1	Licensed Premises	13
Standard Grants	47	Schools	15
Filthy or Verminous Premises	1	Canteens	4
Infectious Disease	4	Street Vendors and Hawkers Carts	3
Theatres Act	1	Milk Samples	23
		Water Samples	9

Total number of visits and inspections: 1,223

Total number of interviews: 1,380

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Defects and or nuisances:

(i) Discovered—62
(ii) Remedied—38

Notices served:

(i) Informal—24
(ii) Statutory—3

Notices complied with:

(i) Informal—17
(ii) Statutory—NIL

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Bolton Corporation is the statutory water undertaker for the Urban District, although certain functions are carried out within the area by the Makerfield Water Board.

There are three sources of supply to the district.

The north-western portion of the district, that is the area adjacent to Butcherfield Row and part of Haigh Road, is supplied from Wilderswood Reservoir at Blackrod. This supply is pumped to Aspull by the Makerfield Water Board.

Properties at Pennington Green and Hall Lane derive their supply of water from the reservoir at Rivington via the Liverpool aqueduct.

The remaining parts of the district receive the Thirlmere supply provided by Bolton Corporation.

All premises within Aspull receive a piped supply from the public mains. During the year 20 new dwellings were connected to the public supply.

Laboratory reports indicate that it is fit for drinking and all domestic purposes.

The following table shows the number of samples of fully treated water taken during the year.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS			CHEMICAL ANALYSES		
	RESULTS			RESULTS	
No.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
6	6	NIL	3	3	NIL

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Work has continued on the laying of the new sewer which will run from the boundary of Wigan in Wigan Road and terminate in Scot Lane, a distance of $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

The work should be completed in 1973 and thus enable the Council to build approx. 200 houses on the Scot Lane site.

It will also allow private development to proceed on land where sewerage was not previously available.

The sanitary accommodation in the district at the end of the year was:

Number of fresh water closets	2,879
Number of privy middens	1
Number of closets attached to these middens	1

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are three public conveniences in the area.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are no licensed caravan sites within the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

There are two factory chimneys in the district and no action has been found necessary during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no registered premises within the district.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are none in the district.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year 17 houses were treated for ants, fleas, silverfish, and cockroaches.

RODENT CONTROL

One man is employed part-time on rodent control work.

During the year 351 visits were made to premises in this connection, dealing with 180 infestations of rats and 30 infestations of mice. This shows a decrease of 7 infestations on the previous year.

The annual sewer treatment carried out in August in which 216 manholes were treated showed 3 complete takes and 3 part takes.

TABLE SHOWING DETAILS OF RODENT CONTROL WORK

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
(a) Number of properties in district	2,976	21
(b) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	183	—
(c) Number of (b) infested by Rats — Major	—	—
Minor	161	—
Mice — Major	—	—
Minor	22	—
(d) Total number of properties inspected for rats and or mice for reasons other than notification	2	—
(e) Number of (d) infested by Rats — Major	—	—
Minor	2	1
Mice — Major	—	—
Minor	—	—
(f) Number of infested properties treated by L.A.	183	1
(g) Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	328	8
(h) Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	—

HOUSING

The number of applicants on the Housing Waiting List at 31st December, 1972 was 161. In addition to this 36 Council house tenants have submitted a request for exchange of houses.

Forty tenancies were granted in the current year and 14 exchanges of houses were arranged for existing tenants. Twenty-two of these tenancies were in respect of houses and flats allocated in the Top Lock Redevelopment Scheme.

A Public Enquiry was held on the 11th January, 1972 regarding objections made to the making of the Liverpool Street (Central) Clearance Area No. 10 and the Leeds Street (South) Clearance Area No. 11 following which the Ministry confirmed both Compulsory Purchase Orders. The final three Clearance Areas were declared in the Top Lock Redevelopment Area involving 29 houses and 73 persons.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of 18 houses and 10 houses were the subject of Closing Orders.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of new dwellings erected during the year:

		Houses	*Flats*
(i)	By Local Authority	7	12
(ii)	By other Local Authorities	NIL	NIL
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	4	NIL

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year:

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	46
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	289
	(c) Number of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	10
(2)	Total number of dwellings existing at end of year, occupied or not, which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which:	
	(a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made (at any time)	65
	(b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made (estimated)	508

2.—Houses Demolished in Clearance Areas:

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year Persons	Displaced during year Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	50	21	10
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangements, etc.	NIL	NIL	NIL
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2), Housing Act, 1957	NIL	NIL	NIL
Not in Clearance Areas:			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	14	11	6
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	NIL	NIL	NIL
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	NIL	NIL	NIL
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	NIL	NIL	NIL

3.—Unfit Houses Closed:

(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957 and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	10	3	2
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	NIL	NIL	NIL
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	NIL	NIL	NIL

4.—Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority	16	NIL
(2) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	NIL	NIL
(b) Housing Act, 1957	NIL	NIL
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	NIL	NIL

5.—Unfit Houses in Temporary Use:
(Housing Act, 1957)

	No. of Houses (1)	No. of separate dwellings contained in Col. (1) (2)
Position at end of year:		
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Section 48	NIL	NIL
(b) Under Section 17(2)	NIL	NIL
(c) Under Section 46	NIL	NIL
(*b*) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	NIL	NIL

6.—Purchase of House by Agreement:

	No. of Houses (1)	No. of occupants of house in Col. (1) (2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year	NIL	NIL

RENT ACT, 1957

There have been 13 applications for qualification certificates appertaining to the Rent Act, 1957, 3 of which were granted.

7.—Housing Acts Improvement Grants, etc.

Two applications were received for Improvement Grants during 1972, both of which were granted.

41 applications were received for Standard Grants during the year, 34 of which were approved.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly collection of refuse has been maintained during the year with the exception of the July and September holiday weeks.

All householders now use the plastic sack method for refuse disposal.

Our refuse collection productivity agreement is still functioning satisfactorily but, due to the increased use of the sack method of collection, the bonus has fallen considerably. The scheme has now been in operation for four years and has proved most successful.

Although, following the introduction of the productivity agreement, the number of complaints against the refuse collection service were comparatively few in 1971, it is gratifying to note that the number of complaints in 1972 were even less, i.e. only 10 complaints were received during the year, e.g. refuse not removed or replacement sack not provided.

This I feel is a true reflection of the type of service given by the Council and by our refuse collectors, a service which will be difficult to improve upon.

1972 has shown an even larger increase in the number of requests for the removal of unwanted articles and household furniture, a total of 182 requests have been made throughout the year, almost doubling the previous years figure. This is probably due to the fact that ratepayers are realising that it is not necessary to indiscriminately dump their unwanted household articles on the roadside or in convenient fields, it is so much easier to ask their Local Council to collect them free of charge.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Lancashire County Council are the responsible Authority for issuing milk licenses.

No Ministry investigation by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was found necessary during the year as a result of tuberculous milk.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Given below are details of samples obtained in the Aspull Urban District, under the provisions of the above Act, during 1972.

A total of 16 samples was obtained comprising 10 milks (two of which were Channel Islands Milk) and 6 others as follows:—

1 Table Jelly
1 Angelica
1 Mince Meat
1 Ground Ginger
1 Stuffing with Sausage Meat, canned
1 Zinc and Castor Oil Cream B.P.

Food condemned is collected by the Authority and suitably buried on the refuse tip.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no slaughterhouses in the district.

Butchers obtain their supplies from abbattoirs situated in neighbouring areas.

The following is a list of food premises within the district:

Type of Business	
General grocers and provision dealers	26
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meat, tripe, etc.)	7
Bakers and or confectioners	3
Fried fish shops	6
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc.	6
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and other similar establishments	33

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, was as follows:

Premises for the storage and retail sale of ice-cream	10
Premises for manufacture of preserved foods	5

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Routine inspection of food premises and mobile shops have continued during the year.

74 visits have been made for this purpose.

1 Food Hygiene Notice was served and 1 Notice remedied, 2 Food Hygiene Defects were found and 2 Defects were remedied.

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, Etc.) REGULATIONS, 1959 and 1963.

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the area.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961. (Part 1)

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local Authorities	2	2	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	6	7	NIL	NIL
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ...	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	8	9	NIL	NIL

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(b) Unsuitable or defective	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(c) Not separate for sexes	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outworkers	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 and 1936.

Eight licenses to store petroleum spirit were renewed during the year.